AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 9, please replace the paragraph between lines 6 and 8 with the following paragraph:

Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence alignment of partial ORF of *eba*-175 (*ebp1*) (SEQ ID NO: 18), *ebp2* (SEQ ID NO: 1), *ebp3* (SEQ ID NO: 2), *ebp4* (SEQ ID NO: 3) and *ebp5* (SEQ ID NO: 4). Identical amino acid residues are shown in boxes.

On page 33, please replace the paragraph starting at line 23 and ending on page 34, line 5, with the following paragraph:

Aliquots of purified mRNA, isolated from purified schizont infected erythrocytes using a mRNA isolation kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA), were stored precipitated in ethanol with 3M sodium acetate at −70°C. The mRNA was treated with DNAase to ensure that it was free of genomic DNA; the absence of DNA was confirmed by the lack of amplification in RT-PCR studies in the absence of reverse transcriptase. First strand cDNA transcripts were prepared using a poly dT primer from a cDNA CYCLE™ kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). This first strand product was amplified by PCR using the oligonucleotide forward primer 5'CAAGGAGAATGTATGGAAAGTA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 6) and reverse primer 5'ATCTTCATATTCATTTGGACTCT 3' (SEQ ID NO: 7). The PCR amplified product was detected by ethidium bromide staining a 1% agarose gel.

On page 34, please replace the paragraph starting at line 9 and ending on page ~~25~~ 35, line 17, with the following paragraph:

P. falciparum EBP2 RII (amino acids 147-762, 1848bp) was amplified using AdvanTaq Plus™ DNA polymerase (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) from 100 ng of 3D7 genomic DNA using the forward primer 5'ATGCGGATCCCAATATACGTTTATACAGAAACGTACTC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 8) and reverse primer 5'ATGCGGATCCTCATATATCGTGTTTTGTTTTAGG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 9) which both contained a BamHI site and the reverse primer contained an additional internal stop codon for cloning into the shuttle vector PCR-Script™ as described by the manufacturer's instructions (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). The *ebp2* RII gene fragment excised with BamHI and cloned into the expression plasmid vector VR1020 (identified as pEBP2-RII). The VR1020 plasmid vector utilizes the human cytomegalovirus promoter and intron A, and human tissue plasminogen activator as the secretory signal and the bovine growth hormone